



**GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
Council Retreat – June 10, 2014
10:00 A.M.**

Location: Carnegie Library
1101 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett, Tim Carter, Janna Day, Pearl Esau, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Brad Holaway, Eileen Klein, Diane McCarthy, Jacob Moore, Colleen Niccum, Merl Waschler, Sandra Watson and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Members Absent: Rep. Jeff Dial (ex-officio), Rep. Doris Goodale (ex-officio), Glenn Hamer, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Amanda McAdams, Kathy Player, Onnie Shekerjian, Tom Tyree and Kimberly Yee (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Dale Frost

Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to understand and reflect on recommendations from the Graduation Rate Task Force (GRTF) Final Report, discuss the Council's next steps in supporting the GRTF, reflect on the current progress of the Arizona Ready Reform Plan, discuss proposed changes to the Reform Plan, and clarify the value of the Council for the next Governor.

Dale Frost, Policy Advisor and Director of the Governor's Office of Education Reform (GOEI), presented former GOEI Director, Rebecca Gau, with a certificate from Governor Jan Brewer, honoring her hard work and contributions.

Presentation: Graduation Rate Task Force Final Report (GRTF)

Merl Waschler, Co-chairman of the Graduation Rate Task Force and President and Chief Executive Officer of Valley of the Sun United Way, provided a brief introduction of the GRTF Final Report and offered his thanks to those who participated in crafting and editing the report.

Mr. Frost discussed the report in further detail, noting that although the number of high school graduates going on to secondary education and graduating is still extremely low, higher education is improving retention rates and K-12 graduation rates are increasing. High percentages of students are being lost at every stage of the college completion pipeline and students are struggling to attain a postsecondary degree or credential. The report focuses on four policy areas, including: personalized

access and progress, rigorous models, pathways based on interest, aptitude and knowledge, and higher quality early childhood experiences.

Nick Rodriguez, K-12 Director for the U.S. Education Delivery Institute, moderated a panel comprised of five Graduation Rate Task Force members who responded to questions and presented specific report recommendations. Rebecca Gau, Executive Director of Stand for Children, discussed how and why few Arizona students succeed in attaining a post-secondary degree or credential. Diane McCarthy, Director of Business Partnerships and Legislative Affairs for Western Arizona Education Center, presented information on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and how it can be improved and made more available to Arizona's high school students. Cathleen Barton, U.S. and Arizona Education Manager for Intel Corporation, discussed the importance of expanding students' educational options and pathways to success. Dr. Maria Harper Marinick, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of Maricopa Community Colleges, discussed programs that aim to create bridges for students into the postsecondary world, including making bridges more meaningful and expanding them. Ms. Barton and Dr. Jim Zaharis, Vice President of Education for Greater Phoenix Leadership, talked about specific communities that need to be engaged in order to effectively implement the recommendations in the GRTF Final Report. Ms. Barton, discussed implementation from a business community perspective. Dr. Zaharis discussed the need for aspirational targets and making knowledge and pathways readily available to parents and students.

Action: Approve GRTF Final Report

Diane McCarthy motioned to approve the final report and Dr. Jim Zaharis seconded. The final report was approved unanimously by Arizona Ready Education Council members.

Update: Arizona Ready Reform Plan

Mr. Frost updated the group on the current progress of student outcomes and the four pillars of the Arizona Ready Reform Plan. Most of the Council's previous work has focused on the first two pillars of data use and standards and assessments. Mr. Rodriguez and Duncan Robb, Program Associate at the U.S. Education Delivery Institute, facilitated a brief group discussion on the pillars.

Mr. Frost presented proposed revisions to the Arizona Ready Reform Plan, which included a revised structure that moves Council involvement with some items to a monitoring role. The three new proposed pillars give the Council an opportunity to focus on new aspects of the reform agenda. These new pillars include: opportunities for struggling students, effective school leaders and teachers and solutions for statewide issues. Mr. Frost proposed that a final plan with revisions be released in September 2014.

Mr. Rodriguez broke Council members into two groups to further discuss the proposed changes to the reform plan. Following the group exercise, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Robb facilitated a discussion with the entire Council to discuss potential changes and edits to the proposed Reform Plan.

Update: Future Role of the Arizona Ready Education Council

Mr. Frost addressed the group and stressed the need for members to clarify the Arizona Ready Education Council's value for the next Governor and what the Council will do to provide that value.

Mr. Rodriguez facilitated a group discussion centered on the positive work of the Council, the Council work that has produced value for the Governor and for the reform movement, and what the

Council needs to change about how it supports education reform. Discussion also centered on defining key messages about what the Council's role will be for the next Governor.

Council Comments

There were no further comments from Council members.

Public Comments

There were no requests from the public to address the Council.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, Diane McCarthy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Jim Zaharis seconded, adjourning the meeting at 3:51 p.m.